

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 8-10, 17-28, and 35-37 will be pending in the application. Claims 1, 17-19, 21, 22, 36 and 37 have been amended. Claims 17-28 stand withdrawn. Support of the amendments can be found at, for example, page 3, lines 25-29; page 4, lines 11-12, 21-27; page 20, lines 8-9; original claims 1, 15 and 17 of the specification. The amendments introduce no new matter.

Claim 37 was rejected under 37 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite because there was insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the receptor targeting ligand" in claim 37. In view of the amendment to claim 37, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 37 is definite.

Claims 1, 3, 8-10 and 35-37 remained rejected under 37 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Levy et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0044408) in view of Li (U.S. Patent No. 6,524,572). In response, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed invention relates to immobilizing a gene transfer vector to a metal surface.

Levy and Li do not teach or suggest all the limitations in the proposed amended claim 1. As conceded by the Examiner, Levy does not teach a CAR protein or a fragment thereof. While Li teaches binding of a recombinant virus to a CAR protein, Li fails to teach binding of nucleic acid, for example, a gene transfer vector, to a CAR protein or a fragment thereof. In view of Levy and Li, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine a metal surface, a CAR protein or a fragment of a CAR protein, and a gene transfer vector with a reasonable expectation of success in immobilizing the gene transfer vector to the surface via the CAR protein or the fragment thereof. Thus, the amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are not obvious over Levy and Li.

Appln. No.: 10/567,872  
Amendment Dated July 1, 2010  
Reply to Office Action of February 19, 2010

RCHP-135US

**Conclusion:**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and remarks into the file of the above-identified application, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: July 1, 2010

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